

FISHIN' POLE PACK & PADDLE

Float Fishermen of Virginia

Summer Issue 2009, No. 8



A great group of paddlers resting at the R5 lunch spot.

photo courtesy of Wendy Jones



PRESIDENT'S PADDLE

Greetings from Lakeside,

The Memorial Day Float was a big success at R5 with a big turn out and lots of water, but it wasn't without "carnage." That brings me to another point; very few people and in some chapters, no people, know the "Rope Trick". There was an opportunity to use it on Sunday at R5 and I could have used it at the Spring Fling on the Rockfish. I carry a heavy rope with me now on every float and most chapters have someone with at least one throw bag; they will work for the "Rope Trick" in a pinch.

I talked to Don Leeger about a "Rope Trick" demonstration some time in the future. I can demonstrate the basics if anybody is interested when we get to Solitude.

The Kid Float was postponed due to some very high water but a large group of paddlers went anyway. Personally I have never floated from middle Rockfish

to Warren, but we did that day and we did it in record time. The rapids on the Rockfish were awesome. The Kid Float will be on August 22nd from Howardsville to Warren with lunches provided and camping afterwards at the take out. We need all the volunteers that we can get.

Bill Tanger has been working diligently on the railroad right of way bill; he will fill you in later in this newsletter; help him out if you can.

Katherine has been doing a good job channeling request for membership to the right chapters. We still need to streamline the requests better so she doesn't have to do it all.

I hope to see y'all at Solitude.
Don

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2009 MEMORIAL DAY MEETING

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After a remembrance for our service persons, past and present, President Don Sims called for officer's reports.

Minutes were approved as printed in the *Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle*.

Treasurer Katherine Waller distributed a three page report. The state organization has approximately eleven thousand dollars in checking and \$7,900 in CDs which she will reinvest as they mature. Expenses November-April included flowers sent to Sam Kerr's memorial; the donation to the American Lung Association in memory of Bob Leonard was not yet listed. The second page listed all of last year's expenses and income; the third page listed itemized deductions.

Newsletter Editor Allison Herbert announced that the due date for the Summer newsletter is August 1. She had extra copies of the Spring newsletter if anyone needed one.

Membership Secretary Beth Willoughby reported that we have 301 paid members, of which 12 are new members. It was moved and approved that Sam Kerr and Bob Leonard be listed as perpetual members. Beth asked that she be informed about any changes in addresses. She also asked that local treasurers send their rosters to her as well as to Katherine.

Conservation Chair Bill Tanger brought us up to date on several issues: decline in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers, fish kills, and legislation related to access across rail road property. A recent report rates the Bay at 38, 70 is passing. 58% of the state's rivers are impaired with some form of pollution. This has spurred the efforts to create a new organization, the Chesapeake Bay Coalition with more political clout. FFV has signed on with 49 other founding members. The organization's executive committee will meet annually to vote on issues. Bill invited FFV members to tell the coalition what you'd like to see done.

In relation to fish kills, research continues

on the Shenandoah, Maury, and James. A new report from the Friends of the Shenandoah examining water quality shows that run off from poultry farms is the primary pollutant. Another problem is sediment; at this time there are no established state standards for sediment. HB 2088 deals with access across railroads to rivers. The three state agencies that make up the committee responsible for reporting this issue to the State House of Representative are comprised of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Game and Inland Fisheries and Rail and Public Transportation. These agencies will evaluate crossings and propose a procedure or process for dealing with railroads. CSX and N&W's current position is to provide no new crossings and instead to reduce them. This bill will reduce or stop money from the state going to railroads unless they address issues of access. Twenty-four crossings have been identified as needing to be addressed. (*FFV has asked Bill to preset us with information on how a bill is done at the Winter meeting*).

Web master Bob Born asked for members to send him articles and trip schedules for the web page. We're all paid up until next year.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

There was a discussion on how to answer questions that come to the web site. It was decided that when replying to the person who is asking the question, copy the Membership Secretary so she will know that a question that has been forwarded to an officer or to a local chapter has been answered. Other ideas: on-line forum, links, participation in Yahoo group.

(Meeting continued on page 3)

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- Editor's Note
- The opinions expressed in FPP&P are those of the author and not necessarily those of FFV
- or its members. Articles and material for publication may be submitted to the FPP&P editor.
- Preferred format: Email with attachments in Word, RTF, and/or JPEG. Dates for submitting
- material for publication: 1st of February, April, August and November. The Editor reserves
- the right to edit as needed. Comments, criticism and compliments are always welcome.
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ROANOKE RIVER RENAISSANCE

By Ken Ingram

Our first pass at a real Roanoke River Renaissance float event on June 6th from the Rotary Park in Salem to the upstream end of Wasena was an overwhelming success. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the removal of the dangerous dam (old sewage pipe creating hydraulics in Wasena Park) and also to let people know about the stretch of river running right through the middle of the city that seems as remote as many streams in Virginia.

Even with the relatively high (fast-not dangerous) water, we had 64 boats, and right at 100 people show up for the trip. In the morning, it took about 45-50 minutes to do the normal 3-4 hour trip. By 1:30 in the afternoon, the water had dropped enough that it took about 2 hours to complete the trip.

The Creek Freaks also showed up in mass and really helped spur the event. With the turn-out this year, the Roanoke FFV chapter see this event being very successful next year.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped out and a special thanks to our core planning committee, which consisted of Barb Green & Roc Cooper, Linda & John VanLuik, Alan & Cathy Joslyn, and Thomas & Marcia Newcomb.

Editor's Note: This article has been edited due to space. Please contact Ken Ingram for the full article.



HB2088: UPDATE

A total of sixteen HB2088 Stakeholders met in Richmond at the DCR office on Friday morning, July 17, 2009. Attending were representatives from DCR, DRPT, DGIF, boating organizations, biking organizations, hiking organizations, Norfolk Southern, CSX Corp and the Virginia Rail Association. (see list below).

The meeting was chaired by Kevin Page of DRPT, who delivered opening comments about the purpose of the legislation and the plans to comply with this new Virginia law. The bottom line is to produce a report for the legislature by December 1 of this year.

The positions of the various parties were discussed, with the primary goal stated of finding opportunities to address the problem issues with railroad crossings. Page stated that he hoped that the act of developing the written process would lead to better cooperation on all of the problem issues with the railroads, not just those that would come up under new funding. This seemed to elicit unanimous support from all.

The example of Cushaw was brought up by

Howard Kirkland of BRRR, wherein existing multiple crossings of hundreds of people each summer weekend are more dangerous and create more liability for the railroads than if the railroads granted permission for a crossing, even an at-grade crossing. He argued that a single crossing would be safer and therefore there would be less liability.

A list of needed access locations was passed around the room. This list shows 24 locations in dire need of cooperation from the railroads. There was a general consensus that the process being developed as a result of HB2088 would provide a process to address these specific sites as well. It was also agreed that these matters had gone unaddressed for far too long and that HB2088 was a good step forward for all concerned.

The meeting adjourned after reviewing the timetable for the process. The next step will be to complete a draft of the report by August 31 and to send it to all for comments. Comments will be due back by September 30.

Attendees: Bob Munson, DCR; DRPT: Kevin Page, Director of Rail; Christine Fix, DRPT; Nancy Auth, DRPT/Atty Gen. Office; Phil Lownes, DGIF; Bill Tanger, FORVA; Tom Miller, FFV; Howard Kirkland, BRRR; Liz Belcher, Roanoke Valley Greenway Director; Champe Burnley, Richmond Area Bike Association; Bud Vye, Virginia Bike Federation; Bruce Wingo, NS; Rob Shinn, CSX; Gale Wilson, Virginia Railway Association.

Attending by conference call: Jeff Wold, FFV; Ron Enders, BikeWalk Virginia.

Editor's Note: This article has been edited due to space. Please contact Bill Tanger for a full copy of the meeting.

MEMORIAL DAY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Kids' Float

Erica Sims reported that the 3rd Annual Summer Float for under served kids will take place June 6th. (The event was cancelled due to high water in the Scottsville area and will be rescheduled). As of Memorial Day, 20 kids were signed up. Erica was hoping for 50 by Float Day. Erica would also like to see the Kids' Float extended to other local chapters.

Randy Carter Award

Bill Tanger reported that we're down to our last statuette. It was moved and approved that we keep the same

statuette for continuity. The mold will run about \$600 and \$2,000 will provide 10 statuettes.

Roanoke River Renaissance

Barbara Green announced that the Roanoke chapter would be inviting area paddlers to paddle a section of the Roanoke River on June 6 to celebrate the removal of a dam in downtown Wasena Park.

A Foundation report was not available, but a Foundation meeting was scheduled for immediately after the business meeting.

After congratulations to Katherine Waller

Boyd on her recent marriage and to Erica Simms on her upcoming marriage and thanks to the Randy Carter Chapter for dinner Saturday night, the meeting was adjourned so paddling adventures could begin.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda VanLuik
FFV Secretary



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Directions to Solitude:

- I-81 to exit 168 (Arcadia)
- Take VA Rte. 614 East toward Arcadia, approximately 3 miles.
- Turn left on VA Rte. 622 and continue approximately 2 miles to campground on left across railroad tracks.

2009 FFV Officer Nomination

The nominating committee which consist of Brian Jones, John VanLuik and Ginnie Peck submit the following names for officers to be voted on at the Labor Day meeting:

Don Sims will continue as President

For a VP and President Elect, Brian Vande Sande

Vice Presidents: Bill Duncan, Erica Sims, Ken Ingram

Secretary, Linda VanLuik

Treasurer, Katherine Waller Boyd

Conservation, Bill Tanger

Membership, Beth Willoughby

News letter and Webmaster are appointed positions

Submitted by: John VanLuik

2009 FFV STATE CALENDAR

August 22nd

Kids' Float/Summer Float

Location: James River

Contact: Erica Sims, Ginnie Peck

September 4-7

Labor Day Weekend

State Meeting at 9:00 AM

Location: Solitude on the James

Dinner: Roanoke/Dickels

***River tax will be collected*

December 5

State Annual Planning Meeting

State Meeting at 11:00 AM

Please check our web site for details and directions to these trips.

UPDATE!

The 3rd Annual Kid Float has been rescheduled to:

Saturday, August 22nd

If you are available to help, please contact Ginnie Peck at: ginnieffv@peoplepc.com for details.

**We hope to see
you there!**



Need a Boat?

Annual Canoe & Kayak Auction

**Saturday, Sept 26, 2009
at 1:00PM.**

Shenandoah Canoe Company
6502 S. Page Valley Road,
Luray VA 22835

540-743-4159 800-6CANOE2

www.shenandoahriver.com